

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

12 MAR. 1962
~~TOP SECRET~~

50X1

1. Berlin

a. The four Soviet flights scheduled for this morning in the southern corridor--two in and two out--came off without incident. Nine western aircraft were in the corridors at the same time. No incidents have been reported. The Soviet flights [redacted]

[redacted] coincide with the altitudes and published schedules of six commercial flights. We believe this planned conflict to be aimed at forcing a rescheduling of western flights or demonstrating that present safety arrangements are inadequate. In either event the USSR can argue that greater Communist control in the corridors is necessary.

b. Saturday night East German police fired on a British military liaison vehicle near Potsdam carrying the Deputy Chief of the British Military Liaison. The driver was seriously injured. [redacted]

50X1
50X1

50X1
50X1

2. Laos

a. Our chargé and the UK and French ambassadors feel that a package offer on a Laotian cabinet may be shaping up: Defense and Interior to Souvanna; Information to Souphannouvong; Social Action, Youth and Sports to Phoumi; Foreign Affairs to the center. Souvanna, who says "he will accept anything," set a dead-line of a week to ten days for agreement between Souphannouvong and the West. He is expected to communicate with the UK ambassador in Vientiane early this week to rejoin Souphannouvong and him in Plaine des Jarres.

b. Ambassador Brown observes from Baguio that statements by Boun Oum to the Laotian National Assembly, prior to its adjourning, reflects a decision by the Royal Government to reject a Souvanna government. The embassy meanwhile reports that the general belief in Vientiane--which may never find official expression--is that a "peaceful solution is mandatory."

3. New rebel demands
delay Algerian
settlement

Premier Debre is still optimistic, but he told Ambassador Gavin that the new demands will require several more days of negotiations. The Algerians doubt the ability of the French to maintain order and are demanding additional assurances that the army will be used against the OAS to protect the Moslem population. The Moroccan Ambassador in Madrid, as a result of talks with former Algerian leader Abbas, feels that if the French cannot give satisfaction on this point the ceasefire may be postponed indefinitely. Also under discussion is the composition of the interim regime.

4. Congo

Tshombe still plans to meet Adoula Thursday, but his supporters seem on the verge of causing an incident in Elisabethville to sabotage the talks. After conversations with Adoula and Kasavubu, Ambassador Gullion feels they want agreement with Tshombe, but that they are not counting on it. Gullion speculates that Adoula knows that he has neither the reliable army nor logistics to support any substantial military initiatives. However, he feels that he can hold his own vis-a-vis Katanga while building his military strength, perhaps with Belgian help. Meanwhile, the UN continues to grapple with the sticky problem of supporting a limited Congolese military move in Katanga without being drawn into hostilities, which the UN especially wishes to avoid while the US Congress considers the UN bond subscription.

5. Burma

There are persistent rumors that prior to the coup the Shan states were threatening secession and intending to join SEATO, and that this move was being instigated by Thailand and the US.

50X1

The embassy feels that we must anticipate that enough suspicion has been implanted by these rumors in the minds of the members of the regime to color their attitude toward the US.

NOTES

A. Public remarks by Madam Ngo Dinh Nhu--undoubtedly sharpened by her narrow escape from the bombing of Diem's palace--are seen by the US Embassy as a possible renewal of the anti-US press campaign.

B. Peiping is making overtures to India for talks on the border dispute.

India derives only marginal benefits from the trade agreement and had previously indicated that negotiations on it were pointless so long as China occupied Indian territory.

C. The Indonesians want the preliminary talks on New Guinea to be in Europe, while the Dutch seem adamant on the US as the site. The Dutch also want a commitment from the Indonesians to tone down their bellicose statements during the talks.

D. Permanent headquarters of the "Joint African High Command" of the Casablanca powers--Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Morocco, UAR, and the Algerian rebel regime--reportedly will be activated in Accra after approval at a meeting in Cairo next month.

E. An early reshuffle of the Syrian cabinet is expected. Leftist Sabri al-Asali is favored to replace Prime Minister Dawalibi, with former Prime Minister Khalid al-Azm still in the running, supported by the Army.

F. The 9 March announcement in Cuba of the formation of a 25-member National Directorate of the Integrated Revolutionary Organizations merely formalizes a situation which has existed since last August.

- G. On 9 March the Soviet press announced the success of preliminary talks for the 1962 Sino-Soviet trade agreement. The talks have been going on for twelve weeks and the agreement will be signed soon in Peiping, but probably without the traditional fanfare. This trade has dropped from around \$2 billion in 1959 to about \$1.2 billion in 1961.
- H. Holden Roberto lined up the support of the Algerian provisional government for his Angolan independence movement during a visit to Tunis in late February or early March. The Algerians will provide military materiel, the delivery of which, however, is dependent on Algerian independence making means of transport available.
-

50X1

- J. Premier Debre on 9 March avoided a direct response to Ambassador Gavin's question as to whether Debre thought a French-German nuclear weapons program was likely. He merely said that nuclear weapons in German hands would be a catastrophe for the USSR and cause very dangerous conditions to arise.

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE